

## Wets Aid Bryan in His Ambitions

(By Mark Sullivan, in New York Evening Post, Feb. 6.)

It is on record that William J. Bryan has some 6,000,000 friends in the United States. Among them all the two most potent at this moment are Gov. Edward J. Edwards of New Jersey and Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York. Not that these two Governors call themselves Mr. Bryan's friends or mean to be his friends. Far from it. Precisely the contrary, in fact. But they did Mr. Bryan a service last night that pretty nearly assures him the fulfillment of his present ambition to be a dominating figure in the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco next June. When Gov. Edwards said, "I purpose to carry the fight (against the National Prohibition Amendment) to San Francisco," he went a long way toward making it certain that the friends of national prohibition in parts of the country remote from New Jersey and New York will see to it that Mr. Bryan is at San Francisco also.

Just at this moment Democratic leaders in several Western and Middle Western States, who have no particular feeling about prohibition, but who do regard Mr. Bryan as a sort of party jinx, are doing whatever they can to quietly to prevent Mr. Bryan from being made a delegate to San Francisco and to prevent him from being endorsed by the party organization in the various States. What Gov. Edwards and Gov.

Smith did last night probably renders these efforts futile.

The occasion, which was a sort of testimonial dinner to the Democratic National Chairman, Homer Cummings, would have been as commonplace as such events usually are but for Gov. Edwards's part. To the discriminating there was a good deal of evidence that Gov. Edwards was an unbidden guest, and an unwelcome one—unwelcome, that is, to the management, but not to the crowd. Gov. Edwards "horned in." He was not on the printed list of speakers; and there were whispered stories back of the dais to the effect that Gov. Edwards had demanded to be heard and had backed up his demand with threats of making a disagreeable noise in the newspapers if he were denied a chance to talk.

But if the management was embarrassed, the crowd on the other hand was delighted. It was a dry crowd—dry literally, that is, not politically. In the applause they gave to the Governor's denunciation of the Prohibition amendment there was a thousand disappointed thirsts, a thousand sad memories of the wet banquets of other days. When he said he proposed to carry his fight against the Prohibition Amendment before the voters of the entire nation he got the most spontaneous applause of the evening, and one ardent "wet" got fervent and prolonged support when he bellowed: "Hurrah for the next candidate on the Democratic ticket!"

Gov. Smith's part was much less conspicuous, less bellicose and more tactful than Gov. Edwards's. Gov. Smith was not present, but sent a telegram in which he merely said that the Eighteenth Amendment is "a restriction against personal liberty which Prussia in her palmiest days never dreamed of."

To the more penetrating observers there was plenty of evidence that Mr. Cummings was acutely pained by the turn that affairs took. He made no direct allusion to it, but he departed from his set speech to speak with obviously sincere self-pity of the unhappy thing it is to be a party chairman—he has to encounter differences between men and factions, and when he tries to compose the differences he is misunderstood. Then, again departing from his set speech he did what he could to counteract the tone that Gov. Edwards had given the occasion, by stressing woman suffrage. In practical politics, prohibition and woman suffrage are supposed to go hand in hand, and for an affront to one the proper antidote is compliments to the other.

### AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Hon. William Jennings Bryan gave a stirring address on "Faith," last night, at the opening of the Southern Bible conference, in the First Baptist church, from which hundreds were turned away for want of a larger seating capacity.

Mr. Bryan was at his best in his address, and the big crowd carried away with them real inspiration from his remarks. He did not touch upon the political situation. He declared the United States is the most enlightened government, and expressed confidence that the people of this country would right all wrongs without revolution.—Miami Herald, Feb. 12.

### WHERE HOOVER IS STRONG

The Hoover candidacy is especially strong among those who fear that the Democratic party hasn't any good man for the presidency. The old idea that the Democrats haven't any good timber in their own presidential wood-lot is now entertained only by Republicans in very remote and inaccessible backwoods localities.—Knoxville, Iowa, Express.

### ELIMINATION OF BRYAN

The job of eliminating Bryan as a potent influence in the Democratic party has again been undertaken by a faction of that political organization. They remember not past years or at least are not discouraged by previous failures. Probably no man in the history of this nation has required so much eliminating at the hands of his party associates as Bryan, at least we recall none even approaching a parallel. And the point of it is that all the elimination efforts have proved abortive. The distinguished Nebraska Democrat has such an aversion to being eliminated that he refuses to stay that way even after his eliminators think they have finished a good job. For 24 years

some of Mr. Bryan's fellow Democrats have been at work removing him as a political entity. Even Woodrow Wilson expressed at one time a wish that the elimination might be completed. On one occasion it was believed that Bryan was a "dead 'un." A "safe and sane" candidate was named. That was thought to involve the final obsequies of the hitherto "peerless leader." But calculations went awry and whatever elimination took place was confined to the other fellows. Now it is feared that the three-times-defeated wants to add another notch to his record and they just won't have it. To prevent it they will try to keep him out of the convention.—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

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